1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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The States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Convinced that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to mankind and to the survival of civilization,

Noting that, despite recent progress in the field of nuclear disarmament, further efforts must be made towards achieving the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Convinced that the ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament is the total elimination of nuclear weapons,

Recognizing the importance of maintaining the validity of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons 1/ as a vital instrument for promoting nuclear disarmament,

Recalling the importance of preserving in that Treaty an acceptable balance of mutual responsibilities and obligations for nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States,

Reaffirming the belief that universal accession to the Treaty would greatly strengthen international peace and enhance the security of all States and, accordingly, urging States that are not parties to that international instrument to accede to it without delay,

Desiring to enforce the consolidation of the Treaty in order to achieve the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons,

Recalling that paragraph 2 of article X of the Treaty establishes that, 25 years after the Treaty's entry into force, the States parties will have to decide whether the Treaty shall continue in force indefinitely or shall be extended for an additional fixed period or periods,

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1/ General Assembly resolution 2373 (XXII), annex..

Convinced that the decision on the extension of the Treaty should lead to further progress in nuclear disarmament, in accordance with the preamble and article VI of the Treaty,

1. Decide that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons shall remain in force indefinitely;

2. Decide also that conferences to review and evaluate the Treaty shall be held every five years and that the conference to be held in the year 2000 shall, as its first task, evaluate fulfilment of the commitments made at the 1995 Conference and the steps taken to achieve the Treaty's universality. To ensure their effectiveness, the conferences shall:

(a) Retain the structure of the review meetings, by establishing three main committees which shall review how each of the Treaty's provisions has been implemented;

(b) Seek to establish specific objectives for attaining full compliance with each and every provision of the Treaty and its preamble, including, whenever possible, the setting of goals with a specific time-frame;

(c) Promote the establishment, within the context of the Treaty, of the necessary arrangements to permit the conduct of negotiations on specific issues between one conference and the next;

3. Urge all States participating in the Conference on Disarmament, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, to conduct intensive negotiations, as a matter of high priority, on the conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty as soon as possible but in no case later than 1996;

4. Reiterate their conviction that, pending the entry into force of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, the nuclear-weapon States should suspend all nuclear tests through unilateral or agreed moratoriums;

5. Appeal for the immediate launching and early conclusion of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a non-discriminatory and universally applicable convention banning the production of fissile material for weapons purposes, including possible consideration of the question of material already stockpiled;

6. Urge all States, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to work actively towards early agreement on a common approach designed to provide the necessary assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, taking into account Security Council resolutions 255 (1968) and 984 (1995) and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and recommend that the Conference on Disarmament actively pursue intensive negotiations with a view to reaching early agreement on binding commitments on this subject and that it include in its next annual report to the United Nations General Assembly a section on this subject covering, inter alia, the alternatives discussed and the progress achieved;

7. Call upon the nuclear-weapon States, in the light of their statements during the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to cease all production of nuclear weapons in accordance with an effectively verifiable ban and to redouble their efforts to reduce their respective arsenals still further, with a view to their total elimination;

8. Recommend that a programme of action for the cessation of the nuclear-arms race should be considered as a major priority by the Conference on Disarmament;

9. Reaffirm their determination to strengthen still further the barriers to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices and to encourage the ongoing efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of safeguards;

10. Reaffirm also the right of all parties to the Treaty to participate in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials, services and scientific and technological information for the further development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for economic and social development, according to their priorities, interests and needs;

11. Recognize that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of agreements freely concluded among the States of the region concerned, strengthens regional and global peace and security and contributes to the ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, and urge all States to support and respect those regional agreements and encourage the efforts being made to establish new nuclear-weapon-free zones.